Slavic languages students earn honors

The University of Kansas Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures recognized 28 students for academic excellence, language proficiency and outstanding service at its annual honors reception April 15.

Maria Carlson, acting chair and professor of Slavic languages and literatures, welcomed attendees and presided at the event.

KU is the only university in the Great Plains to offer doctoral, master’s and bachelor’s degrees in Slavic languages and literatures. The department itself and in conjunction with the Center for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies offers Slavic-related events throughout the year. The area studies program, one of only 12 such federally funded national resource centers, provides a range of Slavic courses offered by more than 50 faculty members in 16 departments. More information about the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures is online at www2.ku.edu/~slavic/.

The Barber County student who received award is: Katie May Sternberger, daughter of Jamie Sternberger, Hardtner, Theatre and Film BGS Freshman, Excellence in Elementary Russian, South Barber High School, Kiowa.
Carlson to speak May 18

Jenni Carlson will deliver the CCCHS commencement address at the graduation ceremony at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Otto Unruh Stadium.

Carlson, daughter of Rex and Sandy Carlson, Clay Center, graduated from CCCHS in 1993 as one of the valedictorians. She graduated from the University of Kansas in 1997 with honors and a bachelor’s degree in journalism.

Carlson worked at The Kansas City Star from 1997-99 as the high school sports columnist. She moved to the The Oklahoman in August 19993 as a sports columnist, the first woman to hold that position in the newspaper’s history.

She is engaged and lives in Oklahoma City and plans to be married to be married to Ryan Reaves in 2009. Carlson is president of the Association for Women in Sports Media, a national organization of more than 500 members.
KU Announces 4500 Candidates for Degrees

LAWRENCE: The names of more than 4,450 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring representing 95 Kansas counties, 48 other states and the District of Columbia and 44 other countries have been announced by the University Registrar.

KU’s Class of 2008 numbers more than 7,000, including 2,555 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2007. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these candidates for degrees will return Sunday, May 18, for the university’s 136th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2008 are expected to participate.

Faculty and candidates for degrees will assemble about 2 p.m. along Memorial Drive for the procession, which begins at 2:30 p.m. The program begins about 3:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, participants should call KU Info, (785) 864-3506, or listen to local radio and television stations to learn the exact time of the commencement ceremony. Commencement information and an up-to-date schedule of events are available online at www commencements ku.edu.

Candidates are listed online by home county, state or country; degree; major; level in school; gender; parents’ names; and high school (when available) at www news ku edu/2008 may 8/grad spring08 s html.

Of 105 Kansas counties, 95 are represented. There are no degree candidates from Chautauqua, Cheyenne, Clark, Hodgeman, Logan, Morton, Norton, Rush, Wallace or Wichita counties.

Onaga Mary Melinda Boren Female - RN to Nursing BSN Senior Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Onaga Meghan R. Weiser daughter of Robert and Marsha Bergman Nursing BSN Senior Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Onaga Elementary School

Wamego Christy Leanne Arzter daughter of Anthony and Donis Arzter Theatre Design BFA Senior Bachelor of Fine Arts Theatre Design Wamego High School

Wamego Tyra L. Blew daughter of Kenneth and Cynthia Blew Economics BA Senior Bachelor of Arts/Economics & Bachelor of Arts/Political Science Wamego High School

Wamego Margaret Elizabeth Pugh daughter of Edward and Cheri Pugh Strategic Communications BSJ Senior Bachelor of Science in Journalism Wamego High School
The topic that seems to have dominated this session is the legislature's attempt to circumvent the denial by the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment of an air quality permit to build a large expansion of a coal-fired electricity generation station owned by Sunflower Electric Cooperative located in southwest Kansas near Holcomb. Listed here is my brief analysis of the issues involved in the third Holcomb bill. It's either "3rd try's the charm" or "3rd strike, you're out."

Two bills have already been vetoed by the Governor. Now, at the end of the session, a new bill has hit the scene. This "Mega Eco-Dew Bill" has several main parts, all related to economic development, but will also affect a wide range of business and industry across the state including rural Kansas. Main parts include:

- The Holcomb power plant expansion
  - Southwest KS.
- The huge inter-modal train and truck freight terminal - Gardner, KS.
- A large aircraft industry expansion that we want to keep in Kansas - Wichita, KS.
- An attempt at keeping a Hills Pet Foods expansion in Kansas - Emporia, KS.
- Many known potential industries lured to the state. i.e. - A wind turbine manufacturer.
  - A major refinery
  - A major milk processing facility.

All told this will have an impact to the state of tens of billions of dollars.

I have more than a passing interest in this topic as I hold both undergraduate and graduate degrees that are directly related to this. I did graduate research on electric power plant flue gas scrubbers. In committee, I have been directly involved with the hearing of evidence on both sides of this issue. The issue at hand can be divided into the following areas.

Public Opinion Considerations:

This session I have received numerous comments about this issue, most of which were from the well-organized opposition from the Lawrence and Kansas City areas. However, the polls that were conducted independently show the majority of Kansas in support of Holcomb. Certainly the vast majority of my own constituents support Holcomb.

Health & Environment:

This project would have the lowest emissions of known pollutants in the world and would be held to the highest standards in the country. The many existing coal-fired power plants in Kansas are a far worse threat. Technology is solving the pollution problems of the past and will continue to improve.

As for global climate change (notice that it has ceased to be called warming) we have heard conflicting testimony from experts in this field. Two KU professors, both contributed to the UN's IPCC study were in complete disagreement on this topic. There is no consensus, no clearly recognized scientific link between man-made carbon dioxide and climate change. Aside from this, it has no other area in which we consider carbon dioxide to be a pollutant. After all, it's in your Coke. As a matter of fact there are many advantages to increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Half of the tremendous increase in crop yields that we've seen in the last 60 years is attributed to the increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. A slightly warmer climate has always historically been considered a positive.

I have never heard any claim of a health risk caused by carbon dioxide other than suffocation.

Technology Considerations:

Based on information that I have seen during this session, coal is the only long term source of electrical energy that has any hope of meeting our needs in the immediate future. Nuclear is coming back into the mix but it faces its own problems. Technology has not yet offered us any other options that will replace these. Renewable energy must be developed but it really does not yet hold promise to replace these older energy sources. It can sometimes replace some of the needed energy but our economy demands a reliable, continuous energy supply and current renewable technology fails to meet this need. Government may be able to speed up such development, and Kansas has taken the lead in the nation on much of this, but it is economics that drives it and that means higher prices.

We also have nothing. In the near future, to replace oil for transportation fuels. Bio-fuels can offset some oil, but not replace it. We are currently seeing the effects of using food stuffs for fuel.

Economic Development:

This present legislation will bring thousands of jobs and billions of dollars to the economy across the state. Our economy runs on energy. It doesn't matter where you use electricity, it has to be generated and the effect of that generation on the environment is felt worldwide. Trucks, trains, YOUR car, all have an environmental impact. Your home, your work place, everything we do has an effect on the world environment. We cannot just shut down the world as we know it.

I have heard experts state that the earth can sustainably support only about 10% of the existing world population. Eliminating nine out of ten people is not an option. Technology must give us the answers to provide the necessary food and energy as well as to take care of our environment.

Political Considerations:

Putting several bills of the same type together is a common practice at the end of the session. It is done all the time and was done many times this year on various topics, without any outcry. It certainly is consistent with the rules that are in place. Personally, I don't like this technique and, in the past, I have supported a change of this rule, but to no avail. Many feel that this technique is necessary, from a pragmatic viewpoint, just to get everything done. In this particular case even many opponents consider this to be quite politically shrewd.

It is plain to me that this is not about environmental issues. KDHE has stopped, by denial of the air quality permit, the building of the cleanest coal-fired power
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Then what is all this about? Politics, of course. It is clear to me that this action was taken for political reasons alone. Please express your views. Email me at kcoe@house.state.ks.us. Call me at 785 296 7878, or write me at State Capitol, Room 310-S, Topeka, KS 66612.

plant in the world because of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere. But, currently KDHE is allowing the renewal of the air quality permits for all existing, much dirtier, coal-fired power plants to continue to operate in Kansas. If they don’t... our electricity costs will skyrocket.
This year Jhasmine had her first big role in the school’s production of “Annie.” She played Miss Hannigan, the evil woman who ran the orphanage.

Jhasmine said she was attracted to the creativity that came with theater, singing and journalism.

“I always had the academic side of things pushed on me,” she said. “I felt like I really needed another way to express myself, so I decided to delve into the arts department.”

Next year, Jhasmine will attend Kansas University where she will study journalism and theater.

“I want to be writing in some kind of magazine or newspaper hopefully music related, or hopefully I will be someone on stage acting,” she said. “I would love to be an actress on stage and free-lance journalist in my spare time. I think that would be the best lifestyle ever.”

Jhasmine said her mentor was a fellow student.

“Since my freshman year I wanted to be Brianna Cooper,” she said. “She graduated two years ago. She was editor in chief of the newspaper and she was in arts and dance.”

Her time at De Soto High is something Jhasmine will always treasure.

“I would really describe it as a lot of fun,” she said. “It was definitely something I would do again if I had a chance. It’s a little trailer for the rest of my life.”
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Area students who are candidates for degrees include Christy Artzer, Wamego, Bachelor of Fine Arts/Theatre Design; Tyra Blew, Wamego, Bachelor of Arts in economics and political science; Margaret Pugh, Wamego, Bachelor of Science in journalism; Sharon Johnson, Paxico, Bachelor of Science in education; Mary Boren, Onaga, Bachelor of Science in nursing; and Meghan Weiser, Onaga, Bachelor of Science in nursing.
Ian Bowen of Lawrence graduates May 18 from Kansas University with a BS in Chemistry and a minor in Geology. He received several honors including the American Chemical Society Wakarusa Chapter Outstanding Graduating Senior Honorable Mention; University of Kansas Chemistry Dept. Award and a National Award from the American Institute of Chemists for scholastic achievement and potential for advancement in the field of Chemistry.

Ian will pursue a graduate degree in Geology at KU in the fall.

Ian is the son of Allyson Bowen and Jaylene Reed of Kingman.
It’s all Rock Chalk for Make-A-Wish recipient

By Linda Sfinnett

A local 16-year-old made lifelong memories when the Kansas University basketball team made a Wichita fundraising appearance.

Thanks to front row seats, a halftime introduction and a locker room visit with the team at a Wichita East High School appearance, Alex Montgomery and his father, Richard, were up close and personal with the basketball stars. The Jayhawks were still on a whirlwind from taking the 2008 NCAA National Championship so nearly 2,700 fans were in attendance at the sold-out event.

But the Montgomerys enjoyed VIP treatment, due to the efforts of Bryan Kuhn of the East High Booster Club, Rockin’ Rick Regan of radio station KZSN Kissin’ Country 102.1 and the staff of Make-A-Wish Foundation of Kansas. Alex is a past Make-A-Wish recipient and has fought Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, which is now in remission.

The Montgomerys were allowed to enter the gymnasium through the pass gate for VIP guests and then sat on the front row, just left of the KU bench and were escorted to the front of the autograph line. Then at halftime, Alex was introduced to the crowd and shook hands with the players.

That wasn’t the end of the story, though, as Alex was allowed in the locker room after the game.

Richard said he was impressed by the graciousness and sincerity the Jayhawks showed his son.

Alex’ mother, Audrey, said he is nor normally talkative. He took advantage of the situation, though, and spoke to his college athlete heroes about his passion for basketball.

“Don’t ever give up on your dream to play basketball, keep practicing, you’ll get stronger and better,” Darnell Jackson told Alex.

Alex Montgomery of Derby enjoyed a behind-the-scenes visit with the national championship KU Jayhawks during an appearance in Wichita. Montgomery is a cancer survivor and a past Make-A-Wish recipient.
Nichols takes third in state contest

Ian Nichols took third place in Class 6A newspaper sports writing at the Kansas Scholastic Press Association State Contest on May 3. Nichols, a junior at DHS, was among students from 118 Kansas high schools who participated in the contest. The contest took place at the University of Kansas with a total of 1,059 entries in 18 categories.

Junior Samantha Bartlett also competed in yearbook layout.
KU announces area candidates for degrees

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Area graduates are listed below:

- Burrton — Stacy Lynn Burke, bachelor of arts/communication studies and bachelor of arts/sociology and bachelor of arts/women’s studies; Adam Michael Hefling, bachelor of arts/anthropology; Emily Elizabeth McCurry, bachelor of general studies/human biology;

- Halstead — Melissa Nicole Hodge, master of social work; Aaron Jacob Keller, German and bachelor of arts/political science; Austin Joseph Pyle, bachelor of science in aerospace engineering

- Whitewater — Brett Allen Wuthrich, bachelor of science in education, health and physical education.